

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
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P R 082055 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6698

S E C R E T BRASILIA 1256

EXDIS

JOINT EMBASSY- DAO MESSAGE

DEPT PASS TO DOD/ DIA

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, BR
SUBJ: PRESIDENT MEDICI TRAVELS TO RIO FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

1. TODAY' S MEDIA ANNOUNCES WEEK- LONG VISIT BY PRESIDENT MEDICI TO RIO DE JANEIRO BEGINNING MONDAY, 12 MARCH. THERE HAD BEEN NO PREVIOUS INDICATION THAT THE PRESIDENT PLANNED A VISIT AT THIS TIME.
2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENTIAL STAFF OFFICER (COL. LAURO ROCA DIEGUEZ) TODAY, DATT LEARNED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS GOING TO RIO FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT CONNECTED WITH SLIPPED DISK WHICH HAS BOTHERED HIM FOR MANY YEARS. ACCORDING TO DIEGUEZ, THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN IN CONSIDERABLE PAIN FOR PAST MONTH AND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME TO EXECUTIVE OFFICES.
3. THOUGHT WAS GIVEN TO BRINGING IN SPECIALISTS FROM RIO DE JANEIRO, BUT IDEA DISCARDED IN VIEW OF LIKELIHOOD OF LEAK AND ATTENDANT SPECULATION ON EXTENT OF ILLNESS WHICH WOULD STIMULATE TALK CONCERNING SUCCESSION. PRESIDENT WILL MAINTAIN MINIMUM EXPOSURE IN RIO, BUT SUFFICIENT TO ALLAY SUSPICION. A SPECIAL BED HAS BEEN ORDERED THROUGH THE BRAZILIAN AERONAUTICAL COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, BUT NO URGENCY ATTRIBUTED TO REQUEST.

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4. DIEGUEZ REQUESTS EXTREME DISCRETION IN HANDLING THIS INFORMATION AND CLAIMS THAT ONLY FOUR INDIVIDUALS AWARE OF DETAILS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS NO MEDICAL EMERGENCY, MERELY EXTREME DISCOMFORT WHICH REQUIRES SPECIALIZED EXAMINATION.
ROUNTREE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED DOD/ DIA

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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